GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:321
ANSWERED ON:04.02.2004
POLIO ERADICATION PROGRAMMES
HARIBHAI PARTHIBHAI CHAUDHARY;SHIVAJI MANE

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether an expert Committee has made certain suggestions for polio eradication programmes;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has launched any time-bound programmes for the eradication of polio from the country;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Government has taken the help of any agency for running such programmes; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SMT. SUSHMA SWARAJ)

(a)to(f): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 321 FOR 04.02.2004

(a)to(d): Indian Expert Advisory Group (IEAG) met on 18th and 19th November, 2003, and took stock of the present transmission situation of the country and observed that there has never been a better opportunity to interrupt wild polio virus transmission in India. The transmission is the lowest ever in high seasons. The IEAG have recommended the following strategies for the year 2004.

-. For the year 2004, Five National Immunisation Days (NEDs) in January, February, April, October and November 2004 and One Sub National Immunisation Days (SNID) in May in 12 States namely UP, Bihar, West Bengal, Haryana, Delhi, Jharkhand, Gujarat Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Assam, Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka.

-• Large scale Mop-ups should be carried out following detection of wild poliovirus from March, 2004, onwards.

-• Quality in chronically low performing districts to be improved.

-• The next 6 months is the critical window of opportunity and needs high level of monitoring at all levels.

-• There should be political engagements from the highest level, especially in Uttar Pradesh.

Government of India has accepted the recommendation made by IEAG and is implementing the recommended strategy during 2004 to achieve zero wild poliovirus transmission by the end 2004 and obtaining polio free certification by 2007. Accordingly, the first Nation wide round of Intensified Pulse Polio Immunization was observed on 4th January, 2004.Subsequent Nation wide rounds have been planned to be implemented on 22nd February 04, 4th April 04, 10th October 04 and 21st November, 04. Besides the Nation wide rounds, Sub National round will be observed on 9th May 04 in 12 high risk States.

In order to make the programme effective, there will be intensive monitoring both at Central and State level. District magistrates of the districts are actively involved for implementation of the programme in their district. There is political commitment at all level for eradication of polio from the country.

(e)&(f): For implementing the pulse polio immunization, Government is taking help of other Department like Education, Social Welfare etc. The teachers, aganwadi workers, social volunteers etc are actively involved in social mobilization and immunization of children during the rounds. UNICEF, Rotary International are helping the Government by actively involving them in social mobilization work in the community. The technical support for implementation of Pulse Polio Immunization is provided by World Health Organization. The funding comes from donor`s contribution and World Bank IDA credit. The donors usually make their commitments on yearly basis. For the year 2004-05, following donors have committed support Pulse Polio immunization by giving the grants.

Donors	Commitments in US million $

CDC	10
KFW	10
JICA	6.5
World Bank	70
DFID	19